

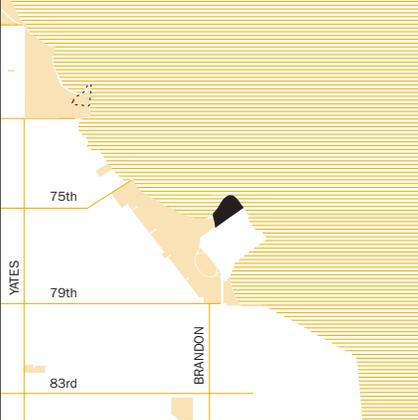
RAINBOW BEACH DUNE

The natural area at Rainbow Beach consists of a wild section of the beach **1** where native plants are being protected and enhanced and a triangular section of land next to it **2**. The triangle was seeded with native species in 2004. The Chicago Park District plans to plant and establish a black oak savanna in this area. Black oaks once thrived in the sandy soils near Lake Michigan's shores; a good model of a healthy, natural black oak savanna with beds of lupine and hairy puccoon growing in the understory can be seen at Illinois Beach State Park near Zion, Illinois.

grasses appeared spontaneously, all on their own. The seeds might have been dormant in the sand, or it's possible the seeds floated in from the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. More species are being added to complement the assemblage of plants already present.

The nonprofit organization Alliance for the Great Lakes is a partner in the educational outreach for this endeavor.

The dune portion of the beach is in an area that was seldom used by visitors, and plants began to establish themselves. Native dune



Rainbow Beach Dune



ADDRESS 7700 S South Shore Dr
 OWNER Chicago Park District
 ACREAGE 7.32

HABITATS
1 Dune
2 Savanna

DIRECTIONS Take South Shore Drive to 79th Street. A park access road curves around to the north and leads to a parking lot. Park in the first zone, south of the field house with the red-tiled roof. Walk east.

